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simultaneously with one foot, respectively. Thus, an unintended operation of the lifting platform is prevented. The emergency off switch 10 may also be arranged in the central area, as illustrated in Figs. 3 and 5. In addition, another foot switch 17 for activating a control voltage may be provided. The foot switch 17 is operated after an operation of the emergency off switch to re-establish the operable state. For preventing an unintended activation, the foot switch 17 may be disposed in a slightly sunken manner.--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel, without prejudice, claim 4.

Please amend claim 1, without prejudice, as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An operating device for a vehicle lifting platform, comprising:

a housing, the housing including:

a cover; and

a plurality of operating elements disposed in the cover and formed as a foot switch;

wherein the housing is fixed in a sunken manner in a floor separate from and adjacent to the vehicle lifting platform, the cover disposed at a level of the floor; and

wherein the operating elements include a first foot switch configured to lift the lifting platform, a second foot switch configured to lower the lifting platform and a safety foot switch, the first foot switch, the second foot switch and the safety foot switch being arranged inside of the cover, the safety foot switch being arranged at a distance to the first foot switch and the second foot switch, the safety foot switch being configured to activate the first foot switch and the second foot switch.

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claim 4, claims 1, 3 and 5 to 9 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.